

# The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas



Welcome 2024 New Members  
“Welcome to  
the Mother Church”



THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA  
THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR  
THE REVEREND FR. DAREN E. EVANS, ASSOCIATE TO THE RECTOR  
6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065  
WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

# THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 26, 2025

## The Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way)  
Philadelphia, PA, 19151  
(215) 473-3065

[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)

The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw  
The 17th Rector

The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans  
Associate to the Rector

The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins  
Associate Priest



## **“WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH”**

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Give thanks unto Him and bless His name”.

Psalm 100:4

Grace and Peace to you from God on **the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, Youth and Young Adult Sunday, Girls’ Friendly Society Induction, New Member Recognition Sunday.**

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic **African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas**, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the USA. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded and growing church family. Whoever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas’ Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus’ message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed and revived. Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life’s journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you. Again, welcome!

Faithfully,  
*Martini Shaw*+

(The Very Rev. Canon) Martini Shaw, 17th Rector  
and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

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Please click on the link provided for  
the [Order of Service](#) for this Sunday.



### **From the Desk of the Rector!**

We offer our deep gratitude to Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Diocese of Washington, D.C. for her prophetic and powerful sermon at the recent Inaugural Interfaith Prayer Service hosted by the Washington National Cathedral.

Our continued prayers of grace and protection for Bishop Budde, her family and for the unity of our nation are lifted.



### **\*BIG NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT\***

The “MOTHER CHURCH” (founded by Blessed Absalom Jones) prepares to welcome the new Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church to the city of Philadelphia. SPREAD THE NEWS & JOIN US!!!





*We're  
Celebrating...*

**THE FEAST OF ABSALOM JONES**  
**Sunday, February 9, 2025; 10:00 AM**

**Please join us in welcoming the new  
Presiding Bishop and Primate of  
The Episcopal Church  
THE MOST REVEREND SEAN W. ROWE**

**PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION:**  
Christ Church, Philadelphia • St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia  
Church Farm School, Exton  
Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys (Washington, D.C.)  
Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge

**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS**  
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**New Member**

**Cadega Alexander**  
**Thelma Anazan**  
**Jabriyah Brown-Williams**  
Daughter - **Zuri Gunby**  
**Nyszha Brown**  
**Germirah Dailey**  
**Karen Davis**  
**Sukona Davis**  
Daughter - **Sakiyah**  
**Andre Dumetz**  
**Renard Golden**  
**Dr. Derek Griffith**  
**Gayle Johns-Carter**  
**Bobbi Jones**  
**Tammara Lewis**  
Son- **Braxton**  
**Alonda Lord**  
**Alliyah Maxwell**  
Daughter - **Allayah**  
**Comfort Migan**  
**Karl Migan**  
Children - **Michael and Nathaniel**  
**Stacey McCoy-Ndiage**  
**Dr. Jermaine McDonald**  
**Mercy Natt**  
**Audra Noel**  
**Wendy Puryear**  
**Raqual Redd**  
**Tina Soumahoro**  
**Jillian Theorgood**  
**Sarah Snow Thomas**  
**Kellen Thomas**  
Daughter - **Naomi Christine Thomas**  
**Stephanie Watkins**  
**Rev. Joseph Watkins**  
**Kadeja Wexler**  
Sons- **August and Leo**

**Shepherd**

D. Lynn Joell  
Conchetta Brewer  
Wendella Fox  
  
Conchetta Brewer  
Deborah Matthews  
Deborah Matthews  
Wendella Fox  
  
William Burke, Jr.  
Bobby Tillman  
Richard Jones  
Clare Mae Daniels/Gail Harris  
Patricia Akins  
Deborah Harrison  
  
Clare Mae Daniels  
Marie Golson  
  
Brenda Johnson Best  
Kelvin Johnson  
  
Elaine Gillison  
Richard Jones  
Judy Tillman  
Mary Dean  
Deborah Matthews  
Patricia Akins  
Maruie Golson  
Judy Simkins-Booth  
Judy Simkins-Booth  
Bobby Tillman  
  
Deborah Camp-Frye  
Richard Jones



### **OUR CONDOLENCES TO:**

Robert Hugh, PJ Grier, and family on the death of Robert's brother, **David Leonardo Hugh**. May the soul of David rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family.

Dr. Frank Johnson and family on the death of his nephew, **Lance Yates**. May the soul of Lance rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

Brenda Battle, Diane Winkfield, and family on the death of their mother, **Shirley Winkfield**. May the soul of Shirley rest in peace and rise in glory. Please pray for the family. Funeral arrangements are pending.

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### **A RECTOR'S REQUEST FOR DONORS**

Our beautiful three banners hanging outside the church are in desperate need of replacement. Are you interested in being one of the donors? The cost for each is \$750.00.

Please contact [Gladyce DuBrey](#) in the [church office](#) to make a donation.



We also need sponsors to cover the donkey rental for **Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025**. Donors can contribute in thanksgiving for a blessing or in memory of a loved one. Please contact [Gladyce DuBrey](#) in the [church office](#) to make a donation.

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### **OUR OUT OF TOWN DEDICATED FAMILIES**

We give thanks to God for these active and dedicated members of St. Thomas who presently live in other cities, states, and countries, but remain connected weekly by various media platforms: Constance Anderson, Dr. Paul Bach, and Dr. Julie Hergerather, Christopher Burks, Deadra Cannon, Nora Corbin, Dr. Ted Corbin, Lee Daniels, Rashid and Christie Faisal, The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, Bradley Hammond, Richard and Gwenda Hart, Dr. Calvin Johnson, Bettie Jones, Rae Scott Jones, Richard Jones, Jr., Dr. Sheila Jones, Steven and Jameela Lewis, Gregory Lyles, Dr. John Rich, Richard and Rebecca Scales, Shelly and Ann Stewart, Howard Tucker, and Allison Young.

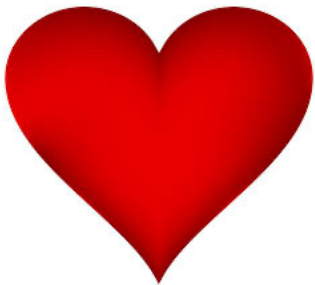


**ATTENTION ALL GUILDS/ORGANIZATIONS  
AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

The Parish Annual Meeting is **Sunday, February 16, 2025** following 10:00 AM service.

End-of-the-year reports for the Annual Parish meeting must be submitted **no later than February 10, 2025**. Your 2024 reports should be one (1) page to include 2024 objectives and activities and 2025 objectives and planned activities. You may include additional information that you would like to share. Please attach your report via email to: [1792@aecst.org](mailto:1792@aecst.org).

During the Annual Meeting, elections will take place for Vestry, Auxiliary Vestry, Delegates to the Schuylkill Deanery, Delegates, and an alternate delegate to the 2025 Diocesan Convention positions. You may find the candidate profiles [here](#).



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**Chosen 300**

**“Have a Heart” for the homeless, sheltered,  
underserved**

Our 2025 Fundraiser for Chosen 300 will begin in “Heart Month” on Sunday, February 2nd.

The funds will provide meals to be served at Chosen 300 sites.

Checks should be made payable to: **AECST Chosen 300**:  
Put Chosen 300 and your envelope number on the memo line.

Mail checks to: St. Thomas Church  
6361 Lancaster Ave. Phila. PA 19151  
Attention: Chosen 300

Place your check in the collections plate.

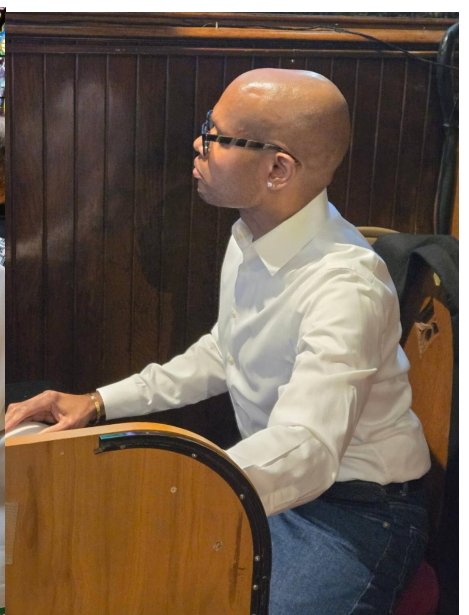
Donate online at: [www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org) select donations Chosen 300

Questions: [scmci@aol.com](mailto:scmci@aol.com)

**The Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
A Celebration of the Life and Ministry of  
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Sunday, January 19, 2025**











Photos credit: Stephen Pugh (St. Thomas Ed Muse Memorial Photography Ministry)

More pictures may be found on our [Facebook](#) page.

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Dr. Jay Fluellen presents the  
**Marian Anderson Historical Society GALA Event**, on  
Sunday, March 2nd at 4:00 PM, at The Crystal Tea Ballroom,  
Wanamaker Building.

Individual tickets for the Gala are \$150  
and tables are \$1,500.

They can be purchased through the [website](#).

Tickets can also be purchased in person after church,  
from Dr. Jay on 1/19/2025, 2/2/2025, 2/9/2025, and 2/16/2025.

All proceeds go to helping us maintain the  
Marian Anderson Museum located at  
762 Martin St. in South Philadelphia.

**Movie Premiere**  
**AIN'T NO BACK TO A MERRY-GO-ROUND**

Upcoming premieres in LA, Philly, NYC and coming to a city near you: Ain't No Back to a Merry-Go-Round, the new film by Emmy-award winner Ilana Trachtman (Praying with Lior, Mariachi High, Black in Latin America) recounts a forgotten watershed moment in Civil Rights Movement history: the first time Black students and an organized white community, largely Jewish, joined forces to protest segregation. At our painfully divided moment, this hopeful film offers an opportunity to explore social justice activism, the powerful promise of partnership, and the potential each of us has to provoke change. Ain't No Back received Best Documentary Feature at the DC.

Black Film Festival, the Audience Award at the Boston Jewish Film Festival, and has been selling out screenings around the country. Filmmaker Ilana Trachtman will attend for talkbacks in Los Angeles on 1/19, NYC on 1/29, and Philadelphia on 2/6, and the film has upcoming screenings in Hartford, New Orleans, Mobile, Florissant, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Boca Raton, Albuquerque, and Portland too. Thank you for spreading the word to your friends, colleagues, and organization and/or bringing the film to your community. Contact Phyllis Cater for more information.

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**"The New Members Manual" has finally arrived!**  
**Please use the [link](#) to access it.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY**

**January 26th**

Welcome/Fellowship to new members of 2024  
Girls' Friendly Induction with a Chat & Chew  
following service

**February 2nd**

Black History Month Kick-Off

**February 9th**

Celebration of the Life and Ministry of the  
Rev. Absalom Jones  
The Presiding Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe  
Girls Friendly Souper Bowl  
after service in Anderson Hall

**February 16th**

Love Sunday and Parish Annual Meeting  
after service

Daughters of the King informational Chat and Chew

**February 23rd**

Youth and Young Adult Sunday/Scout Sunday  
Guest Speaker - The Rev. Richard Burnett  
(General Secretary of CUAC - Colleges and Universities  
of the Anglican Communion)

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Are you receiving robocalls from the Rector about special  
upcoming events? Do you know someone who does not  
receive the electronic Spearhead every week? If not, please  
send your email and cell number to [Gladyce DuBrey](mailto:Gladyce.DuBrey@parish.org).



## **THIS WEEK AT AECST - JANUARY 27, 2025**

### **Tuesday, January 27th**

Advocacy Outreach Group Meeting in the Undercroft  
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Pilgrims On a Journey Bible Study  
with Fr. Jay via Zoom - 7 :00 PM

### **Wednesday, January 28th**

Bible Study with Fr. Daren  
6:00 PM in the A.J. House

St. Thomas Gospel Choir rehearsal  
7:30 PM in Anderson Hall

### **Friday, January 31st**

Retired Peoples Ministry  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM in Anderson Hall

### **Saturday, February 1st**

Chancel Choir rehearsal  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM in Anderson Hall

Girls' Friendly Society

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Absalom Jones Choir-12:00 - 2:00 PM

### **Saturday, February 22nd**

The Chancel Choir is sponsoring a recital featuring students from the voice studio of our new member Renard Golden. The program is start at 3:00 PM  
It will be a free will offering.

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### **AECST LIVE STREAM**

Please join us for worship on the [St. Thomas website](#), the [Live Service](#), or on our [Facebook](#) page or [Youtube](#) every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. You can also watch [Past Services](#).



## **CALLING ALL DANCERS!!!!**

Opportunity awaits if you want to praise the Lord in dance and worship. The “Angels in Motion” dance ministry, a multi-generational ministry welcomes all ages, and skill levels in ballet, modern, jazz, and African dance to join! Interested? Please contact, Director, [Pamela Johnson](#).

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## **VERGERS NEEDED!**

Are you being called to this exciting ministry?  
Want to know more about what a Verger does?

The Verger Guide may be found [here](#)

Please speak with Karen Ragland or  
the Rector for more details.

## ALTAR FLOWERS



Flowers on the High Altar are in loving memory of the heavenly birthday of **Monserate Rodriguez**, given by her daughter Samira Savoury, son-in-law Anthony Savoury, and grandchildren Peyton, Chase and AJ.

Flowers on the High Altar -\$60.00

Flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar - \$50.00 each

Flowers on the Columbarium - \$40.00 each

To order flowers for the High Altar, Absalom Jones Altar, or Columbarium, please use this [link](#).

The New Presiding Bishop, **The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe** will be the Celebrant of our Celebration of the Life and Ministry of the Rev. Absalom Jones on Sunday, February 9, 2025.

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## CHAT AND CHEW

Have you ever considered hosting a Coffee Hour (Chat and Chew) following Service in thanksgiving for a blessing received or in memory of a departed loved one? Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the church office for further details.



The last day for the GFS “Souper Bowl of Caring” is **Sunday, February 9th** after service. Donations and item collection will be after service in Anderson Hall. **GFS Motto:**

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

### **GFS Promise**

As a GFS Member, I promise...

To share God’s love for all people,

To worship and serve faithfully,

To make my words true, and my actions right,

To grow strong in mind, body, and spirit,

To make the world a better place to live.

### **Girls Friendly Souper Bowl of Hunger**

GFS is hosting Chat and Chew on January 26th after church on GFS Sunday. We will be collecting items for Media Food Bank for Souper Bowl of Caring. Items can also be put in our bin in the Undercroft until Feb. 9th. Soups will be on sale \$10 a quart made by our GFS families with proceeds going to Media Food Bank as well. Stop on by to grab a snack, learn more about GFS Worldwide, Holiday House and to welcome our newest members.

A message from Dakota Mosley-GFS St. Thomas Member

The Girls' Friendly Society is proud to support the work of Tackle Hunger and their annual Super Bowl of Caring event. If 213 million people watch the game, think about how much money we could give if each person donated one dollar to a food bank. The Media Food Bank is helping tons of people who can't afford food. That's why GFS is helping collect food until February 9th. Tackle Hunger to tackle the game!

# MOST NEEDED ITEMS

Media Food Bank @ First Church  
Donations Accepted Daily from  
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
350 W. State Street Media, PA 19063  
Entrance on Baker Street

01

## BABY ITEMS

- Baby Food
- Diapers
- Pull Ups
- Wipes

02

## BEVERAGES

- Coffee
- Tea
- Juice/Juice Boxes
- Hot Chocolate

03

## PANTRY STAPLES

- Broth
- Cooking oil
- Vinegar
- Sugar/Flour

04

## CANNED GOODS

- Canned Fish
- Canned Meat
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit

05

## CONDIMENTS

- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayo
- Salad Dressing

06

## SNACKS AND BREAKFAST

- Crackers/Chips
- Cookies
- Cereal
- Shelf-Stable Milk

07

## PERSONAL CARE

- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene Items
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste

08

## HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Dish Detergent

09

## PET SUPPLIES

- Dog Food (Wet or Dry)
- Cat Food (Wet or Dry)



## RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES

Persons are needed:

to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact [D. Lynn Joell](#) if interested.

to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office.

to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact [Alfreda Brockman](#).

to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office to sign up.

to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service. Please contact [Gladyce](#) in the office if you are interested.

as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) if you are interested.

**Photography Ministry** is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact [Bill Edmonds](#) or [Dale Williams](#).

**The Shepherds Ministry** is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact [Charlene M. Wiltshire](#).



## **EXCITING NEWS!!! SPREAD IT!!!**

Our new and exciting Family Podcast Series is **ALIVE!!**  
Two series are now available for your listening enjoyment.

#1 - Fr. Daren introduces the Series with **Fr. Shaw** as his guest. “Creating a Culture of Conversation”. The podcast can be found using this [link](#).

#2 - Fr. Daren welcomes **Pamela Johnson** as his guest. “Body Image: Good Enough for Jesus”. The podcast can be found using this [link](#).

#3 - Fr. Daren welcomes **Tynecia Wilson** as his guest. Conversation: “The Adultification of Black Girls”.  
The podcast can be found using this [link](#):



## CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Are you willing to serve, at least one Sunday per month, as a church school teacher? Please prayerfully consider this call. We are especially looking for young adults, men, and anyone who loves children. Please speak with [Fr. Daren](#) ASAP if you are interested.

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At St. Thomas, we embrace and celebrate our youth. If you have children in your family or neighborhood, please invite or bring them to be a part of our amazing Church School program. When was the last time you invited someone to church?

Church School begins at 10:00 AM on Sundays in the Undercroft. Please see Church School Superintendent Tynecia Wilson for details.

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### Exciting News!!!!

Plans are underway to create a **Tots area** to be used on Sundays for children who are not yet Church School age. Please speak to [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.





## **ATTENTION ALL ACOLYTES**

Rehearsals are EACH SUNDAY immediately following service. For more information, please speak with [Fr. Daren](#).

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### **WEDNESDAY'S IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY**

with Fr. Daren meets in the AJ House at 6:00 PM.  
Our Spring study will be a journey through  
the Book of Revelation.

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## **A REMINDER TO ALL GUILDS, ORGANIZATIONS, MINISTRIES, AND INDIVIDUALS:**

**ANY** and **ALL** Activities using the church facilities (i.e., Anderson Hall, the Undercroft, the church) or the Absalom Jones House **MUST** be scheduled and approved by the Parish Administrator: [Gladyce DuBrey](#) or call (215-473-3065) and **NOT the SEXTON** beforehand.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that all activities are listed on the calendar of the Parish Office.

## DAILY RECOMMENDED BIBLE READINGS

### Readings for the Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 26, 2025

The First Lesson - [Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10](#)  
[Psalm 19](#)

The Second Lesson - [1 Corinthians 12:12-31](#)

### The Holy Gospel Readings for the week of January 27, 2025

Monday - [Mark 5:21-43](#)

Tuesday - [Mark 6:1-13](#)

Wednesday - [Mark 6:13-29](#)

Thursday - [Mark 6:30-46](#)

Friday - [Mark 6:47-59](#)

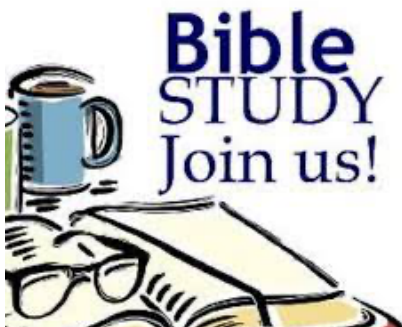
Saturday - [Mark 7:1-23](#)



The Adult Formation Program has a new name:

### **“Pilgrims On a Journey Adult Bible Study”**

Join us on Tuesday, January 28th at 7:00 PM via Zoom.  
We will celebrate our new name with a toast and met for  
five (5) years on Zoom! Use this [Zoom](#) link to join us.



### **Pilgrims on a Journey Bible Study**

with Fr. Jay meets on Tuesdays at  
7:00 PM via Zoom.

Please contact [Fr. Jay](#) with  
questions/requests.

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:**

### **IN THE HOSPITAL:**

Kenneth Dow, Alletta Parris-Olday - Presbyterian Hospital;  
Carole Williams Green - PA Hospital; Patricia Holmes

### **IN REHAB:**

Helena Allen - Simpson House; Leotta Griffith, Linda Holmes  
- Saunders House; Gwendolyn Langford - Arden Courts of  
Cherry Hill; Inez Turner- The Residence;  
Veger Stephen Hannum - St. Francis Rehab  
Quincina Edmonds-Encompass Rehab

### **AT HOME:**

Robert Brown, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Ola Bass,  
Thelma Silvers, Lemont Johnson, Patricia Ellison,  
Mary Ann Jones, Shirley Caldwell, Barbara Douglas,  
Wendell Whitlock, Virginia DuBrey, Arlene Gray,  
Jameela Lewis, Bill Edmonds, Carole Williams Green

### **KEEP IN PRAYER:**

Justin Trotman, Cathy Stafford, Terri Taylor, Lisa Woodley,  
Adinah Edwards, Carl Dean, Ann Stewart,  
Sandra Bryant Miller, Autumn Simmons, Donald Hunt, Jr.,  
Daryn Stewart, Waltier Blocker

### **WE PRAY FOR**

those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as  
those affected by their actions.

## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

Do you feel called to work with Youth? Do you have great ideas that will help the church to connect with the youth of today (and vice versa)? You are invited to be a part of our parish Youth Council. Please contact [Fr. Daren](#) for more details.

## **YOUNG ADULT GATHERING**

All young adults (those in their 20's and 30's) are invited to a time of fellowship on the 4th Sunday of every month in Anderson Hall immediately following worship.

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## **GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY**

All young ladies are invited to join us on Saturdays in the Undercroft at 11:00 AM. **The Girls' Friendly Society does not meet every Saturday.**

Please contact [Nikkol Simms](#) for more information and the schedule.

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## **DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?**

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble, St. Thomas Chancel Choir or St. Thomas Gospel Choir. If interested, please contact [Gladyce](#) in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

## CALLING FOR YOUTH ACOLYTES!



All youth of our church are invited to serve in the AECST Acolyte Ministry. No prior experience is needed as training will be provided. This is an excellent way for our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church. For more information please speak with [Fr. Daren.](#)

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**Scout Troop #133** - Our Cub Scout Program is open to children grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at **2:00 PM. on Saturdays.**

Our Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program meets at **3:00 PM on Saturdays.**

Please contact Scout [Master Howard Chapman](#) for more information.

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## **HOW CAN I BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP?**

**“To whom much is given, much is required.” -Luke 12:48**

The Stewardship Committee of the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas recognizes that stewardship may take form in several ways, your time, your talent or your treasures. The one commonality is that each of us must prayerfully ask God to guide us in making the right choices and have faith that He will guide us to the right decision.

Our church has a tremendous congregation that is thriving and growing. The ministries that we have serve all of God’s children near and far. These endeavors require all three forms of stewardship: but especially your sharing of treasures. Prayerfully consider donating to one or all of the special requests below.

### **FAITHFUL GIVING CARD (PLEDGE)**

Please pray for your Faithful Giving for 2024 and 2025. You’ll be able to complete your [Faithful Giving Card](#) on the [church website](#), or by using the paper Faithful Giving Card. Strong support is needed to meet the budget, our many endeavors and outreach projects at St. Thomas. Your Faithful Giving Card can also be placed in the Alms Basin or mailed to the church office.

**THE BUILDING FUND ENVELOPES** have been placed in Anderson Hall beside the Offering Envelopes. Please pick them up with your offering envelopes. If you’ve already picked your offering envelopes up, please pick up your Building Fund envelopes. You can also do your Building Fund offering [online](#). Each box of Building Fund envelopes will include twelve envelopes, one for each month.

Thank you.

## **CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT FUND**

If you are actively contributing, thank you! Your gifts are truly appreciated. Everyone is asked to make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. The Building Fund Envelopes are located in Anderson Hall beside the Offering envelopes. When using electronic payments select "Building Fund." If using checks write "Building Fund" on the memo line of your check.

## **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

The church has received many "undeliverable" mailings. If you have moved, please update your mailing address with the church office by [email](#) or phone 215-473-3065.

Can you help deliver offertory envelopes to our sick and shut-in parishioners? If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you would bring their envelopes to them. A list of our sick and shut-in parishioners is located next to the offertory envelopes in Anderson Hall.

**IMPORTANT:** Make sure your name, envelope #, and amount are included on the front of your offering envelope. This is critical for bookkeeping accuracy. Help is just an email away. Contact [Judy Tillman](#).

## **RECTOR'S PRAYERFUL WISH LIST**

\$100,000.00. Our air conditioning units have provided over 30 years of comfort. They are now in need of being replaced. Please prayerfully consider donating toward the replacement and use the [link](#) provided. Thank you to those who have already given toward the new air-conditioning units.

There are several ways to submit your offering and tithes: church service offertory, use the QR code, website donations, download the Givi app, U.S. Mail or hand deliver it to the fiscal office.



**The African Episcopal  
Church of St. Thomas |  
Abou...**

[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)



## WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

“To whom much is given, much is required.” Luke 12:48

- 1) **Sunday Offering Plate.**
- 2) **Mail in** your check or money order to the church.  
Please use the following address:  
The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas  
c/o Fiscal Administrator.  
6361 Lancaster Avenue, (Absalom Jones Way).Philadelphia,  
PA 19151
- 3) **Use the Givi app.** If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain. Please download the Givi app, (**givi IOS App**) for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or (**givi Android App**) for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with **Deadra Cannon**, 215-844-6115.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Fiscal Office during regular business hours ( Monday - Thursday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM) **After business hours**, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) **Church website - [Online Giving](#)**  
Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc. **NOTE:** Please remember to enter your envelope number in the Customer ID field, if you are a member of St.Thomas when filling out your online giving information.)
- 6) **Pledge Cards** - Please send them via the US mail to the church or fill out the form **[electronically](#)** through the **[www.aecst.org](http://www.aecst.org)** website or send an email to our **[Fiscal Administrator](#)**.  
Thank you so much to all who have return them.

## MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez	
Rector	The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw	rector@aecst.org
Associate to the Rector	The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans	associaterector@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins	associatepriest@aecst.org
Associate Priest	The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney	wilgafney@gmail.com
Associate Minister	The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach	pauljaybach@gmail.com
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Fiscal Administor	Jeannette Jeffrey	fiscal@aecst.org
Sexton	LaDon Elliott	1792@aecst.org
Asst Sexton	David McGilberry	1792@aecst.org
Chancel Choirmaster	Jay Fluellen, DMA	chancelchoir@aecst.org
Gospel Choirmaster	Waltier Blocker	gospelchoir@aecst.org
Rector's General Counsel	Joe Tucker, Esq	jtucker@tigattorneys.com
Altar Guild	Alfreda Brockman	fredabee@verizon.net
Baptism Co-Chairs	Gail Hinton Harris	baptism@aecst.org
	Patricia Walker-Ellison	p.walker.ellison@gmail.com
Church School Superintendent	Tynecia Wilson	churchschool@aecst.org
Ed Muse Photographry Ministry	William Edmonds	edmon57@comcast.net
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Girls Friendly Society	Nikkol Simms	njsimms@verizon.net
Jazz Ensemble Director	Jay Fluellen, D.M.A.	chancelchoir@aecst1792.org
Live Stream Ministry	Yaseen Farooq   Teri Tillman	livevideo@aecst.org
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	Clare Mae Daniels	happycmd05@aol.com
Monarch Greeters Ministry	Ashley Hines	1792@aecst.org
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	Karen Ragland	Kdrags415@gmail.com
Parish Webmaster	Gail Hinton Harris	webmanager@aecst.org
Property Chair	William Burke	property@aecst.org
Scout Pack 133	Howard Chapman	howchapman@gmail.com
	Arlene Gray	bsapack0133@gmail.com
Stewardship Chair	Judy Tillman	stewardship@aecst.org
Transportation Ministry		
Videography Ministry	Quentin Heyward	recordedvideo@aecst.org
Visitor's Ministry	Edita Gauthney   Michele Green	visitorsministry@aecst.org
Voices of Comfort	Robert Davenport	robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com
William Burke Ushers Ministry	Arlene Singletary	leaniepo302@gmail.com

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## VESTRY OFFICERS

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones | Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp-Frye  
Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels | Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, iii Esq.  
Stewardship Chair - Judy Tillman | Property Chair - William Burke

## THE VESTRY

Deadra Cannon  
Deborah Harrison  
Pamela Johnson

Wendella Fox  
D. Lynn Joell  
Patricia Lynch

Marie B. Golson  
Kelvin Johnson  
Judith Simkins-Booth

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**THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS** is a Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom.

St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is re-imaged, taught, lived, and spread.